



**Tom Barrett**  
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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***Mayor Tom Barrett released the following statement regarding today's announcement by the Milwaukee Board of School Directors on its Fiscal Year 2010 budget:***

"I'm pleased my efforts to address the school choice funding flaw were successful and spared Milwaukee taxpayers another double-digit property tax increase for MPS.

For years I have taken this issue directly to the legislature, stating the case for Milwaukee taxpayers. It's been a hard fight and I'm pleased our efforts paid off last year when Governor Doyle included in his budget a provision that begins to phase out the property tax burden caused by not including the school choice program students in the calculation of school aids for Milwaukee.

These formula changes have been directly applied to property tax relieve for Milwaukeeans. While we still haven't resolved the entire funding flaw, we are making real headway in our effort. This year's 2.8% levy increase is finally beginning to reflect all the hard work done to address the funding flaw."